 History - Special Award – The Helli Lasch Challenge

1. After the 27th World Gliding Championships in Mafikeng, South Africa, the Helli Lasch Challenge was formed, an exclusive gliding event held on the airfield at Tswalu. The Tswalu Kalahari Game Reserve is the venue where the invited World Champions and their companions/partners will have a wonderful stay enjoying amazing scenery, game and bird viewing. All expenses for the invited members getting to and from South Africa, gliding and the stay in the Tswala Kalahari Reserve are fully paid for. This event is hosted and founded by Nicky & Strilli Oppenheimer in memory of Strilli’s late father, Helli Lasch. The current World Champions and the current South African gliding team members are invited to attend. This exciting and very special gliding event is run approx. every two years after the World Gliding Championships.

Objectives of the Helli Lasch Challenge

* Living Memorial to Helli Lasch
* Foster international relations
* Promote South Africa as a gliding destination
* Develop the competition skills of the South African gliding team & young future WGC South African glider pilots

2017 The Soaring Society of South Africa has decided to delay the 8th Helli Lasch Challenge until late February/early March 2018 and will be inviting 4 - 5 pilots (possibly World Champions or in any case from amongst the top pilots) to attend the event. They will be expected to share their ideas for developing the competion skills of the South African gliding team and young up- and-coming glider pilots and to share their knowledge and experience. “Flying with the champions” is the motivation and to learn from them. The Soaring Society of South Africa or its delegate will be liaising with the relevant top pilots regarding the invitation and further details.

This special gliding event and all expenses involved to & from South Africa and the period at the Tswalu Kalahari Game Reserve will again be very generously sponsored by Mr. Nicky Oppenheimer. At the inception of the Challenge it was to be for just three events, but Mr. Oppenheimer has agreed and continues to host this, and in 2018 it will be the 8th HLC.

For further informations please contact Carol Clifford. [bobcar@global.co.za](mailto:bobcar@global.co.za)

2020 9th Helli Lasch Challenge

The 9th Helli Lasch Challenge was held in late February/early March 2020 just before the world changed so much due to the Corona Crisis. A Chronicle of the HLCs and the names of those invited since inception is listed below by Carol Clifford.

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**HELLI LASCH CHALLENGE ATTENDEES SINCE INCEPTION IN 2002**

**Names of those invited**

1st HLC Nov 2002 Oscar Goudriaan S.Africa Open class Werner Meuser Germany 15 m class Laurent Aboulin France Standard class

2nd HLC March 2005 Holger Karow Germany Open class Wolfgang Janowitsch Austria 18 m class John Coutts New Zealand 15 m class Andy Davis Great Britain Standard class

3rd HLC March 2007 Michael Sommer Germany Open class Wolfgang Janowitsch Austria 18 m class Janusz Centka Poland 15 m class Oliver Darroze France Standard class

4th HLC March 2009 Michael Sommer Germany Open class Olivier Darroze France 18 m class Janusz Centka Poland 15 m class Michael Buchthal Germany Standard class

5th HLC March 2011 Michaeel Sommer Germany Open class Zbigniew Nieradka Poland 18 m class Stefano Ghiorzo Italy 15 m class Sebastian Kawa Poland Standard class Lady Champion Sue Kussbach Germany Standard class

6th HLC March 2013 Tassilo Bode Germany Open class Zbigniew Nieradka Poland 18 m class Sebastian Kawa Poland 15 m class Lady Champion Agnete Olesen Denmark Club class

7th HLC March 2015 Michael Sommer Germany Open Class Karol Staryszak Poland 18 m class Sebastian Kawa Poland 15 m class Bert Schmelzer Belgium Standard Class Lady Champion Anne Ducarouge France 15 m class

8th HLC Feb/Mar 2018 Peter Szabo Hungary Open class Kilian Walbrou France 18 m class Makoto Ichikawa Japan 15 m class Louis Bouderlique France Standard Class Lady Champion Katrin Senne Germany 18 m class

9th HLC Feb/Mar 2020 Felipe Levin Germany Open class Wolfgang Jonowitsch Austria 18 m class Lukasz Grabowski Poland 15 m class Sjaak Selen Netherlands Standard class Lady former Champion Katrin Senne Germany 18 m class

**FAI Challenge Cups Manager’s report to IGC Plenary 2021**